

At the local level, the County has adopted an Erosion & Sediment Control ordinance, a Floodplain ordinance, and a Water Protection Ordinance (stormwater regulations) which must be complied with in connection with land use and development activities.

Erosion & Sediment Control: certain land-disturbing activities require advance approval of an Erosion & Sediment Control Plan. The purpose of an E&S Plan is to control soil erosion, sediment deposition and nonagricultural runoff. For the purposes of the County's E&S regulations, the term "land disturbing activity" means any land change that may result in soil erosion from water or wind, and the movement of sediments into state waters or onto other property. With certain exceptions [as set forth in the County's E&S ordinance] land disturbing activity includes clearing, grading, excavating, transporting soil and filling of land.

Stormwater Management: certain land-disturbing activities require advance approval of a local Stormwater Plan and/or a Virginia Stormwater Management Plan (VSMP). A VSMP is required anytime more than one (1) acre of land will be disturbed by development activities. A local permit is required for smaller activities. For the purposes of state and local stormwater regulations, the term "land disturbing activity" means any manmade change to the land surface that potentially changes its runoff characteristics, including any clearing, grading or excavation associated with a construction activity regulated pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act.